**Introduction**:

On November 4, 2014, voters in Illinois will go to the polls and cast their vote for governor. This year’s contest, between Democratic incumbent Pat Quinn and Republican challenger Bruce Rauner, is an extremely close one, with many polls calling it a toss up.

**Objective**:

Research the candidates for governor in Illinois and decide whom you would/will vote for on Election Day.

**Directions**:

1. Visit the official website of both candidates:
   1. [Pat Quinn](https://www.quinnforillinois.com/00/)
   2. [Bruce Rauner](http://brucerauner.com/)
2. Research and compare the backgrounds of the candidates:
   1. What is their educational background?
   2. What is their professional background?
   3. What is their experience in politics?
   4. Is there anything else in their biographies that you feel is significant?
3. Select a minimum of **three** policy areas that are important to you and compare the candidates’ stances on each policy area. Cite the source for your information if it is found somewhere other than their websites.
4. Research endorsements for governor published by Illinois newspapers. Consult at least two newspapers. Do you agree with their endorsements? Why or why not? Try any of the following newspapers:
   1. Bloomington *Pantagraph*
   2. Champaign *News-Gazette*
   3. Chicago *Sun-Times*
   4. Chicago *Tribune*
   5. Peoria *Journal Star*
   6. Rockford *Register Star*
   7. Springfield *Journal-Register*
5. Finally, write a two-page (minimum) double-spaced essay (using Times New Roman Size 12 font and 1 inch margins) discussing which gubernatorial candidate you will/would vote for. Include a discussion of the candidate’s background and policy stances. Include a discussion of endorsements from Illinois newspapers.

**Grading:**

* \_\_\_\_\_ /10 points: Essay presents an informed discussion of the voter’s choice for governor
* \_\_\_\_\_/ 2.5 points: Essay uses correct spelling and grammar
* \_\_\_\_\_/2.5 points: Essay follows formatting guidelines

**Total**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ points extra credit